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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/191 and should be considered in conjunction with the report of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/CONF.222/17). It highlights the main features of the Thirteenth Congress, including its high-level segment, the discussions on the substantive items on its agenda and the outcome of the workshops held within its framework, and the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation. The report also contains a summary of the deliberations on the outcome of the Thirteenth Congress that took place during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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I. Introduction

1. The Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/185. The main theme of the Congress was "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". More than 4,000 participants from 149 Member States attended the Congress, including Government representatives, observers for 19 intergovernmental organizations and 38 non-governmental organizations, and more than 600 individual experts.

2. The Thirteenth Crime Congress took place at an important historical juncture, where issues such as the rule of law and the post-2015 development agenda were taking centre stage globally. The Congress offered a propitious opportunity to the international community to take into account the links between the rule of law and sustainable development while setting the framework for the post-2015 development agenda. In September 2015, the General Assembly was expected to adopt a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda that would respond to the many changes that have taken place in the global development environment since the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000. The outcome of the Congress has not only set the tone for, but more importantly, given direction to the work in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice for the next five years, and beyond.

3. The Congress was the first to be attended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. It was also the first in the 60-year history of the United Nations crime congresses to be preceded by a youth forum and to adopt by acclamation its declaration at the opening of its high-level segment.

4. The broad agenda of the Congress provided a platform enabling the international community to take stock of the world crime situation and to assess its preparedness to deal with crime-related challenges, particularly with emerging crime threats. In discussing both the substantive items on the agenda of the Congress and the topics of its workshops, the participants stressed the indispensable role of the United Nations, and in particular of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in reinforcing prevention strategies, in criminal justice reform and in the fight against various forms of transnational crime. They also emphasized that crime prevention and criminal justice needed to be central in efforts to promote good governance and the rule of law and achieve long-lasting and sustainable development. From this angle, the provision of technical assistance was considered important for pursuing and accomplishing tangible results with a long-term perspective in the prevention, prosecution and punishment of crime, in particular through building, modernizing and strengthening criminal justice systems.

5. At the Congress, and subsequently at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, there was recognition of the unique character of the Congress, which combined political leverage and expertise and which served as a forum for the worldwide sharing of knowledge and exchange of experience.

II. Preparatory phase

6. On the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, acting as the preparatory body of the Congress, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/184, in which it approved the provisional agenda for the Congress, including the substantive items on the agenda, and decided on the issues to be considered by the workshops to be held within the framework of the Congress, and also adopted resolution 68/185, in which the Assembly decided that a high-level segment should be held during the first two days of the Congress.

7. Four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress were held in 2014: (a) the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2014; (b) the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Doha from 3 to 5 February 2014; (c) the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San José from 19 to 21 February 2014; and (d) the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2014. The reports of the four regional preparatory meetings were brought to the attention of the Commission at its twenty-third session (A/CONF.222/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.222/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.222/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.222/RPM.4/1, respectively).

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/184, a discussion guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1) was prepared by the Secretariat, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to better frame discussions held at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself.

9. On the initiative of the Government of Qatar, the host country for the Congress, a governmental expert meeting on preparations for the Thirteenth Congress was held in Doha from 27 to 29 September 2014. The meeting brought together experts from all regions with members of the Bureau of the Commission to contribute to the preparations for the Congress by considering elements for inclusion in the draft declaration of the Congress and by providing input to the draft report on the contribution of the Thirteenth Congress to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

10. As part of the preparatory process, the Qatari National Organizing Committee for the Congress took the initiative of undertaking, in advance of the Congress and with the participation of UNODC, joint missions to a number of capitals in all regions, to enable bilateral consultations on the preparations for and the outcome of the Thirteenth Congress, and to enable greater cohesion in the preparations and negotiations on the draft political declaration and for the Congress itself. Such joint missions were undertaken to Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, as well as the seat of the European Commission.

11. In line with General Assembly resolution 69/191 and in order to facilitate the preparation of the draft declaration in advance of the Thirteenth Congress, informal consultations were held in Vienna on 6 November 2014, on 24 and 25 November 2014, on 22 and 23 January 2015, on 19 and 20 February 2015 and from 23 to 27 March 2015. These informal consultations were chaired by Ahmed Al-Hammadi,

Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and Vice-Chair of the National Organizing Committee, and facilitated by Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations at Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session. A preliminary draft of the declaration was used as a working document during those consultations. The intensive work of delegations during those informal consultations led to the finalization of the draft declaration prior to the Thirteenth Congress and was conducive to the unprecedented adoption by acclamation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation at the first meeting of the high-level segment of the Congress.

III. Proceedings of the Thirteenth Congress

12. The Congress was convened in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 415 (V), which provided for the convening every five years of an international congress in the field, as well as in pursuance of Assembly resolutions 46/152, annex, 56/119, 67/184, 68/185 and 69/191.

13. In conformity with the practice followed at United Nations special conferences and with General Assembly resolution 56/119, pre-Congress consultations were held on 11 April 2015. Participation in the consultations was open to representatives of all States invited to the Congress. A number of recommendations on the organization of work of the Congress were agreed upon in the course of the consultations.

14. While addressing the Congress at its opening, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted the importance of the crime congresses as the world's largest and most diverse gathering of Governments, civil society, academia and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice. He noted in that regard that for 60 years, the United Nations congresses had helped to shape criminal justice policies and strengthen international cooperation against the global threat of transnational organized crime. He stressed that crime threatened peace and security, hindered development, violated human rights, further enabled corruption to thrive, undermined good governance and the rule of law, devastated individuals and communities, and particularly affected weak and vulnerable groups in society. He stressed that the post-2015 development agenda required the recognition of the centrality of the rule of law and human rights to sustainable development.

15. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/184 and 68/185, the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress was held from 12 to 14 April 2015 to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main substantive items on the agenda of the Congress. At the first meeting of the high-level segment of the Congress, on 12 April 2015, the Doha Declaration was adopted by acclamation (see below).

16. During the high-level segment, the Secretary-General of the Congress emphasized that the Congress had a unique opportunity to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda by promoting a holistic approach that integrated

effective crime prevention and criminal justice measures into the wider United Nations agenda, including work on human rights, gender equality and the protection of children. He highlighted the fact that the crime congresses had been held for 60 years, and had been at the forefront of shaping policies, setting standards and strengthening international cooperation by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss challenges and priorities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. He emphasized that the Congress offered an opportunity to take stock of and agree on robust responses to address crime in all its forms, including corruption, trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, wildlife crime, cybercrime and violent crime.

17. The President of the General Assembly noted that the main theme of the Congress was timely and important for two reasons. First, it provided an opportunity to shape the agenda of the United Nations on crime prevention and criminal justice. Second, the Congress would feed into the ongoing intergovernmental process to develop the post-2015 development agenda. He also reported on the thematic debate of the General Assembly on integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the post-2015 development agenda, which had taken place on 25 February 2015, emphasized the mutually reinforcing nature of crime prevention and sustainable development and expressed recognition of the need for public participation in the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

18. The President of the Economic and Social Council further noted the importance of the timing of the Congress as a landmark in a crucial year for international development. He stressed the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, including the upcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council; the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; the General Assembly summit at which the post-2015 development agenda would be adopted; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

19. During the high-level segment of the Congress, reference was made to the important role played by the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in providing an opportunity to discuss challenges and priorities, identify trends and risks, and share good practices and experiences relating to crime prevention and criminal justice among a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, international and non-governmental organizations, academia, subject-matter experts and the general public. Speakers took note of the particular importance of the Thirteenth Congress, which marked the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations crime congresses and coincided with the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Speakers also welcomed the Doha Declaration as a point of departure, and called for its implementation to support and reinforce the linkages between crime prevention, criminal justice, the rule of law, human rights and development. Furthermore, there was a call for Member States to take joint action in support of the implementation of the Doha Declaration and its vital intergovernmental response to the challenges relating to crime prevention and criminal justice by furthering international networks and cooperation. Speakers also noted the important links between crime prevention and criminal justice, and sustainable development, and called for the former to be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. The linkages between sustainable development and

the rule of law on the one hand, and the reduction of poverty and the generation of educational and employment opportunities on the other hand, were also emphasized.

20. In its plenary meetings, the Congress considered the following substantive items on the agenda:

(a) Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development;

(b) International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime;

(c) Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime;

(d) National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.

For its consideration of those items, the Congress had before it working papers on those substantive items (A/CONF.222/6, A/CONF.222/7, A/CONF.222/8 and A/CONF.222/9, respectively), as well as the discussion guide for the Congress (A/CONF.222/PM.1) prepared by the Secretariat and the reports of the regional preparatory meetings. The deliberations at the Congress under each of those agenda items are included in the report of the Congress (A/CONF.222/17, chap. V).

21. The Congress also had before it a report on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide (A/CONF.222/4), prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/191 and in accordance with past practice. The report presented the major findings concerning global and regional trends for different types of crime. The analysis in the report of intentional homicide, gender-based killing of women and girls, bribery, trafficking in persons and wildlife crime highlighted that in countries where income levels are lower, citizens suffer the greatest threats to their security and well-being. According to the report, criminal justice systems varied greatly in terms of their efficiency and fairness. Such variations existed both between and within regions and, depending on the level of economic development of countries, had a direct impact on the access to justice afforded to citizens. At the moment when the international community was discussing the proposals made by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, the report provided further evidence that a number of targets included under the Open Working Group's proposed goals 5, 15 and 16 were fully relevant for making sustainable development a reality for all citizens; furthermore, thanks to the advancements made by national and international institutions, metrics to monitor progress towards proposed targets were increasingly available and reliable.

22. Under the substantive agenda items and workshop topics, emphasis was placed on the significance of upholding the rule of law and of preventing and countering crime in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms of crime, at the national, regional and international levels. Furthermore, there was a strong call for Member States to address and combat crime, corruption, terrorism and violence, and ensure that comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies were in place. Member States also reaffirmed the linkages between the rule of law and sustainable development, while bearing in mind the overarching theme

of the Congress. Member States noted that the rule of law was both an outcome of and an enabler for development, and recognized the crucial need to include the rule of law and the strengthening of criminal justice systems in the post-2015 development agenda.

23. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/184, workshops on the following topics were organized with the assistance of the institutes comprising the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network:

(a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

(d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

For its consideration of those items, the Congress had before it background documents (A/CONF.222/10, A/CONF.222/11, A/CONF.222/12 and A/CONF.222/13, respectively), as well as the discussion guide and the reports of the regional preparatory meetings. The summary of the discussions during the workshops is contained in the report on the Congress (A/CONF.222/17, chap. VI).

24. As part of the Thirteenth Congress, UNODC, in cooperation with other stakeholders, organized 11 high-level special events on the following topics:

(a) Rule of law, human rights and the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) "Wildlife and forest crime: a serious crime";

(c) The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(d) Effective and coherent assistance to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations;

(e) Strengthening national and international cooperation in preventing and countering terrorist financing;

(f) Implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems;

(g) Panel discussion on violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(h) Global data-sharing for effective investigation and prosecution in match-fixing cases: taking it from the locker room into the hands of law enforcement;

(i) Why do victims matter? Thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Basic principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;

(j) Towards universal implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: the Institutional Integrity Initiative and the Implementation Review Mechanism;

(k) Heroin trafficking on the high seas in the Indian Ocean.

25. In addition, a total of 195 ancillary meetings were held during the Thirteenth Congress, more than twice as many as during any previous Congress. Of those meetings, 30 events were sponsored by United Nations entities, and 75 events were sponsored or co-sponsored by Member States. The ancillary meetings reflected the great interest of non-governmental organizations in crime prevention and criminal justice issues, as well as the significant potential of their involvement in more coordinated action geared towards designing comprehensive and interdisciplinary approaches to crime challenges.

26. A dynamic youth forum, the first of its kind in the history of the United Nations crime congresses, was held prior to the Thirteenth Congress, from 7 to 9 April 2015. The Doha Youth Forum on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was organized by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior of Qatar and supported by UNODC. It brought together 123 students from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines, representing over 30 nationalities. Representatives of the Doha Youth Forum presented at the opening of the Congress the Doha Youth Forum Statement, which included recommendations for global, regional and national action. The Secretary-General of the United Nations received the statement from the participants in the Forum and handed it over to the President of the Thirteenth Congress.

27. In accordance with paragraph 2 (h) of General Assembly resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress adopted by acclamation at the first meeting of its high-level segment, on 12 April 2015, the Doha Declaration as orally amended (A/CONF.222/17, chap. I, resolution 1). In the Doha Declaration, Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States recognized the importance of strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, with a view to ensuring that they are fair, just and humane, as well as accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of all individuals. They also stressed the commitment and political will of Member States at the highest level to implement as an important priority comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies that promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. They highlighted how ineffective criminal justice systems and the lack of effective social crime prevention policies allow crime, terrorism and violence to take root and prevail, thereby hampering social and economic development. They further recognized the need for Member States to continue supporting the implementation of capacity-building programmes and the provision of technical assistance to achieve the objectives set forth in the Declaration, in collaboration with UNODC as an essential partner. Finally, they acknowledged that, while the development and adoption of crime prevention policies, the strengthening of criminal justice institutions and their monitoring and evaluation were the responsibility of Governments, the successful implementation

of such policies should be based on a participatory, collaborative and integrated approach that includes all relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, children and youth. The Declaration was anchored in the fundamental importance of universal education for children and youth, the prevention of crime, terrorism and corruption, and sustainable development. It further placed a premium on instilling shared values based on the importance of the rule of law and the protection of human rights with a view to further promoting a culture of lawfulness.

28. Pursuant to rule 52 of its rules of procedure, the Thirteenth Congress adopted a report containing the Doha Declaration, a summary of the proceedings of its high-level segment, a summary of the substantive work conducted in its plenary meetings and by the committees, and a brief account of the high-level special events organized within its framework.

IV. Follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress

29. In its resolution 69/191, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give high priority at its twenty-fourth session to considering the Declaration of the Thirteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its seventieth session. Accordingly, in line with Economic and Social Council decision 2014/230, the Commission, at its twenty-fourth session, held from 18 to 22 May 2015, considered the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress under items 4 and 8 of its agenda and focused on possible ways and means of translating into practice the political content of the Doha Declaration.

30. In the framework of the thematic discussion, the Commission considered the outcome of the Thirteenth Congress as contained in the relevant note by the Secretariat (see E/CN.15/2015/7). The discussion focused on two sub-themes: "From Doha to New York: contribution of the Thirteenth United Nations Crime Congress to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda"; and "Implementing the Doha Declaration: paving the way to Japan".

31. Under the first sub-theme, many speakers noted that, for the first time in the context of the definition of the sustainable development goals, justice and the rule of law figured prominently in the discussions on the development agenda. The crucial timing of the Thirteenth Congress was also highlighted, as was the fact that it had given direction to the work in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice for the next five years and beyond. A number of speakers referred to the need to integrate the efforts of UNODC and other entities of the United Nations system into the post-2015 development agenda. They also mentioned the need for the Commission to enhance its engagement with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and with the Council itself, in order to identify common areas of work in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Several speakers noted that greater focus should be placed on the strong and mutually reinforcing link between the rule of law and sustainable development. The importance of identifying elements of the Doha Declaration that could be conceptually linked with the corresponding sustainable development goals was noted. In that regard it was suggested that Member States could use the report of the

Thirteenth Congress and the Doha Declaration in their preparations for and at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015, at which the post-2015 development agenda is expected to be adopted. It was also suggested that the outcome of the Congress needed to be conveyed to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as being reflected in the sustainable development goals.

32. Under the second sub-theme, speakers noted that the Doha Declaration provided the international community with a road map to the Fourteenth Congress, to be held in Japan, and emphasized the role of UNODC, other United Nations entities and all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Doha Declaration. A few speakers referred to the need to continuously evaluate the progress made in implementing the Doha Declaration with a view to achieving the desired impact by 2020. The importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in the lead-up to 2020 was highlighted, including in the framework of the Commission. In that regard, it was mentioned that the Doha Declaration reflected various areas of international cooperation.

33. Under a separate item on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission, speakers discussed issues related to the organization of the Thirteenth Congress and ways to improve preparations for future congresses, including by adopting a concise and focused declaration and examining the duration of the congresses. Speakers welcomed the successful completion of negotiations on the Doha Declaration in Vienna prior to the opening of the Thirteenth Congress, and noted that that practice should be replicated for future congresses. Speakers also welcomed the organization of the high-level segment at the beginning of the Thirteenth Congress and the sequencing of topics and workshops. It was recommended to organize a follow-up expert group meeting on lessons learned, similar to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006 and convened by the Government of Thailand, which had hosted the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see E/CN.15/2007/6).

34. In addition, a workshop on the theme "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: implementation of the Doha Declaration", organized by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, was held during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission. The workshop was chaired by the Third Vice-Chair of the Commission and moderated by the Deputy Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, a member of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.

35. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/191, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve for adoption by the Assembly a draft resolution entitled "Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which the Assembly would endorse the Doha Declaration adopted by the Thirteenth Congress and invite Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in full conformity with all the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural

specificities of their respective States. In the resolution, the Assembly would also welcome the intention of the Government of Qatar to work with UNODC in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the outcome of the Thirteenth Congress, particularly the implementation of the Doha Declaration. The Assembly would further request the Commission to review the implementation of the Doha Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

36. The Assembly would also request UNODC, in the development and implementation of its technical cooperation programmes, to aim for sustainable and long-lasting results when assisting Member States in rebuilding, modernizing and strengthening their criminal justice systems and promoting the rule of law, and to design such programmes to achieve those aims for all components of the criminal justice system in an integrated way and with a long-term perspective; and to continue to provide technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the international counter-terrorism instruments.

37. The Assembly would further call for greater coherence and coordination between UNODC and relevant United Nations agencies with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader United Nations agenda, and would invite other international organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with UNODC in the implementation of its mandate

38. Furthermore, in the same resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to distribute the report of the Thirteenth Congress, including the Doha Declaration, to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, so as to ensure that they are disseminated as widely as possible, and to seek proposals by Member States on ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Doha Declaration for consideration and action by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session.

39. Finally, the Assembly would express its profound gratitude to the people and Government of Qatar for the warm and generous hospitality extended to the participants in the Thirteenth Congress and for the excellent facilities provided for the Congress; and would welcome with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020.